primarily responsible for development and maintenance of roads declared as national Highways. World Bank is giving assistance of US$ 306 million for improvement of National Highways in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. No improvement work in Assam has been undertaken with World Bank assistance. The works are expected to be completed by June, 2001.

Amount spent on National Highways in Gujarat

2314. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Highways in Gujarat; and

(b) the amount spent on them during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are nine number of National Highways and one National Expressway which is under construction in the Gujarat State.

(b) The details are as under:

Year	Expenditure incurred on	
	Development of NHs (Rs. in crores)	Maintenance of NHs.
1995-96	54.58	17.45
1996-97	37.38	27.13
1997-98	43.22	37.57

Missing of Sailing Vessel "Rajhans"

2315. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJUBHAI PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mechanised sailing vessel "Rajhans" reported missing alongwith 18 Indian crew members has since been traced; and

(b) if so, when and in what condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The ill fated vessel m.v. Rajhans was found floating upside down near Kuria Muria island about 1050 miles from Indian Coast line. All the crew members were missing and only three bodies were found near the wreck on 22.12.98. The exact reasons for the casualty are not known due to the absence of survivors.

A fact finding inquiry has been initiated by the Directorate General of Shipping.

Conversion of Panchapalli-Manijanga as National Highway

2316. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to convert the PANCHAPALLI-MANIJANGA ROAD in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa into a National Highway;

(b) if not, the details of the amount spent on repairing the PANCHAPALLI-IBRISINGH portion of the road in the last three years;

(c) whether bills are passed every year for its repair but the same is pocketed by the concerned officials and their pet contractors to the agony of the nearby villagers; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Government is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of only National Highways and all other roads are essentially the responsibility of the respective State Government. Since, Panchapalli-Ibrisingh road is a state road, the Central Government is not concerned in the matter.

Construction or National Highways in Orissa

2317. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minis-ter of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing National Highways, those of approved National Highways, the proposed National and State Highways in Orissa;

(b) how many of the approved National Highways are under construction and the time schedule for completion of the works; and

(c) the status of the proposed Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are 7 nos. of existing National Highways and recently 3 nos. of new National Highways have been declared in Orissa. There is no new proposal for declaration of any National Highway in Orissa and State Highways are the subject-' of State Government of Orissa.

(b)-Development of National Highways is a continuous process. 58 nos. of road and bridge works under normal Plan-provision are at various stages of progress. Two more projects are in progress under external funding. Out of these 58 number of jobs under normal Plan provision, 32 jobs are targetted for completion by the end of March, 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

Phased implementation of Super Highway Project

2318. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the project-wise and year-wise breakdown of plan to build 27000 km. of new National Highways as announced by Prime Minister recently;

(b) whether financing of these projects has been tied up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Prime Minister has recently announced a project of four/six laning of approximately 7,000 kms. of existing National Highways connecting Silcher to Saurashtra as East-West corridor and Kashmir to Kanyakumari as North-South corridor. A task force under the Chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission has been constituted by the Prime Minister to chalk out the Plan of development of integrated National Highway Development Project and smooth and timely implementation of the same. Finance of these projects shall be made available out of cess on petrol and diesel, budgetary support and private sector participation.

National Highways

2319. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers and names of National Highways passing through the States; State-wise;

(b) the approximate number of vehicles passing through the National Highways, Statewise; and

(c) the Centre's allocation for the maintenance of each National Highway in the last three years; State-wise?